

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00685 121320Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SOE-02
AF-10 ARA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
IO-14 L-03 NASA-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02
PRS-01 DOE-11 OES-07 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /146 W

-----128240 121323Z /50

O R 121251Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8684
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MAERAS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC HAWAII

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0685

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM ETECH IN BG
SUBJECT: DESAI COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR ISSUE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SAMACHAR WIRE SERVICE'S FIRST
REPORT ON PM DESAI'S COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES AT
PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING OF JANUARY 12:

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 00685 121320Z

BEGIN TEXT: INDIA WILL AGREE TO FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS
ONLY IF THE NUCLEAR POWERS, AT LEAST THE BIG TWO, THE
UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION, SIGNED A
COMPREHENSIVE TREATY TO AVOID ALL TYPES OF TESTS,
DESISTEE FROM MANUFACTURE OF NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND
ACCEPTED A PHASED REDUCTION AND EVENTUAL

ELIMINATION OF THEIR STOCKPILES.

AT A CROWDED PRESS CONFERENCE THE PRIME MINISTER MR. MORARJI DESAI CLARIFIED THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH INDIA WOULD MODIFY ITS PRESENT STAND IN ORDER TO DISPEL THE CONFUSION CREATED BY CONFLICTING REPORTS IN THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN PRESS AFTER MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN'S VISIT. "IT IS NOT TRUE THAT I HAVE TOLD ONE THING TO MR. CARTER AND ANOTHER THING TO MR. CALLAGHAN. I TOLD BOTH OF THEM THAT IT IS UNFAIR THAT INDIA WHICH HAS EVEN DECIDED NOT TO GO IN FOR EVEN PEACEFUL TESTS SHOULD BE ASKED TO ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION OF ITS PLANTS BY THOSE WHO HAVE HUGE ARSENALS OF THESE WEAPONS AND ARE CARRYING OUT FREQUENT TESTS."

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, MR DESAI SAID HE WANTED THAT ULTIMATELY EVEN CHINA AND FRANCE WOULD AND SHOULD SIGN SUCH A TREATY. THIS, HOWEVER, WAS NOT BEING PUT AS A PRECONDITION. IT WOULD BE ENOUGH IF THE USSR, USA AND THE UK ENTERED INTO SUCH A TREATY, HE SAID.

MR DESAI DENIED THAT INDIA HAD AGREED TO SAFEGUARDS APPROXIMATING TO THE FULLSCOPE SAFEGUARES SOUGHT BY THE USA FOR OBTAINING HEAVY WATER FROM THE SOVIET UNION. BUT HE DECLINED TO EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE
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PAGE 03 NEW DE 00685 121320Z

BETWEEN THE TWO.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD TOLD PRESIDENT CARTER THAT USA WAS BOUND TO SUPPLY ENRICHED URANIUM FOR THE TARAPUR POWER PLANT FOR THIRTY YEARS IN TERMS OF THE CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION. BUT MR. CARTER EXPRESSED HIS FEELING THAT THE NEW LEGISLATION ON THE ANVIL MIGHT CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR HIS GOVERNMENT IN CARRYING OUT THIS OBLIGATION. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTS CANNOT BE WIPED OUT BY SOME LEGISLATION.

MR. DESAI EXPECTS AMERICAN URANIUM FOR TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION TO KEEP COMING IN FOR AT LEAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS BEFORE THE US LEGISLATION CREATES DIFFICULTIES. THE PRIME MINISTER REFUSED TO ELABORATE HIS REPORTED REMARK TO A GROUP OF US SENATORS THAT IF AMERICA STOPPED THE SUPPLY OF URANIUM, INDIA MIGHT IMPROVISE. THESE STEPS WERE BEING STUDIED AND IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO TALK ABOUT THEM, HE SAID. END TEXT.

2. WHEN TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE IS AVAILABLE,

WE WILL SEND TEXT OF DESAI'S REMARKS.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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